

Dear Congressmen,

I Michael Diaz of the great state of New Jersey am asking you the Congress of the United States of America to consider this plea on behalf of myself and my fellow unemployed Americans.

The facts are known. While job growth is occurring most of these jobs are temporary US Census positions. Their impact on the long term health of our economy will be minimal. Worse the American people are deceived into believing jobs of value are being created for the long suffering unemployed thus eliminating the need to extend benefits.

There has been a concerted effort by conservatives to draw a dubious picture of the long term unemployed as lazy or disinterested in finding work. And that extending benefits prolongs unemployment duration. But we know that length of unemployment is directly tied to open positions. When Americans are faced with competition by hundreds for a single position it should not come as a surprise that your chances of being hired are greatly diminished.

We asking that you publicly recognize the position many Americans are in. Few job openings, fewer employers willing to hire the unemployed (yes you can find ads stating this) and weakening jobs skills are leading to a crisis for those out of work for a year or longer. We need your help with direct aid and job training programs.

Direct aid is one of the best forms of stimulus government money can buy. According to the Congressional Budget Office direct and indirect economic activity from unemployment benefits is on the range of 1.61 to 1.91 for every dollar spent. That equates to a lot of jobs in our hometowns. This is why allowing the hundreds of thousands and potentially millions of unemployed to do without an income of any sort is both hurtful the individual and their family and the local economies that depend on our spending of these benefits.

Direct aid is greatly appreciated as it keeps a roof over our heads and food on the table but we also need job training. Anything you can do to help states re-train the American workforce will only help in our efforts to lift the nation out of the long economic recession.

I plead with you today to hear us and to help us. Do the right thing Congressmen we beg you. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Michael Diaz